

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 605

By Sanderson

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Union City High School on winning the 2017 TSSAA Division I Class 2A State Football Championship.

WHEREAS, this General Assembly is pleased to specially honor and commend those successful high school teams that, through their magnificent exploits, bring honor to Tennessee and serve as exceptional ambassadors for this State; and

WHEREAS, the Union City High School football team achieved an extraordinary level of success during the 2017 season, winning the coveted Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association (TSSAA) Division I Class 2A State Football Championship; and

WHEREAS, state championships are achieved only through hard work, dedication, and the ability to work together as a team and excel with a cooperative spirit; the Golden Tornadoes exhibited each of these rare qualities during their championship season; and

WHEREAS, amassing a remarkable season record of 13-2, Union City stormed through the playoffs as the Golden Tornadoes defeated Manassas 62-24, Douglass 44-30, Peabody 28-21, and Columbia Academy 35-7 to advance to the state championship game; and

WHEREAS, facing Tyner Academy of Chattanooga in the BlueCross Bowl in Cookeville on the campus of Tennessee Technological University, Union City was led by Offensive MVP Trey Jones and Defensive MVP Kaleb Craig as the team battled tenaciously for every yard on the gridiron; and

WHEREAS, tied at the end of regulation, each team scored a touchdown in the first overtime; Golden Tornado Andrew Easley intercepted a Tyner Academy pass in the second overtime to set up Union City's game-winning score and claim a 27-21 victory and the championship trophy; and

WHEREAS, this state championship is the fourth in school history and the first since Union City won the Class 1A state title in 2014. The win also avenges a loss by the Golden Tornadoes to Tyner in the 1997 Class 2A state championship; and

WHEREAS, the members of this championship team are Kaleb Perkins, Jonas Ingram, Wilton Wade, Austin Jernigan, Colton Quick, Jake Wheelles, Braxton Waddell, Trey Jones, D.J. Gray, Neil Brown, Grant Kizer, Tyler Bowling, Nolan Faulkner, Grant Jernigan, Case Blackwell, Harrison Huff, Colby Butler, Andrew Easley, Conner Hurt, Kaleb Craig, T.Y. Long, Landon Scribner, Jaden Woods, Jonathan Stone, Wes Tilghman, Carson Corley, Alexander Cox, Deonte Miller, Kaylon McClendon, Johnathan Gray, Travon Westbrook, Dylan Taylor, Jackson Whaley, Preston Little, Jay Ramsey, Donovan Martinez, Alex Rodriguez, Justyn Johnson, Marcell McElrath, Sam Theobald, Dalton Morris, Jason Bone, Mason Brinkley, Ke'Andre Moss, and Jake Green; and

WHEREAS, the State Champion Golden Tornadoes of Union City High School enjoyed the leadership, dedication, and commitment to excellence of an exceptional group of coaches, namely Darren Bowling, Wesley Kennedy, Wade Maddox, Justin Dubruiel, Mack Moore, Steve Gossett, Coby Watts, Cole McAdams, Chase Bowling, Brian Conner, and Jason Qualls; and

WHEREAS, providing exceptional assistance to the football team were ball boys Hayden Kennedy, Carter Watts, Evan Alexander, Logan Vincent, Tucker Davis, Gavin Morgan, Ben Wade, Landon McAdams, and JohnMatt Morgan; and

WHEREAS, Union City was proudly cheered on to victory by Golden Tornadoes cheerleaders Aleigha Beth Keeling, Haley Thomas, Emma Collins, Nicole Bone, Emma Ross, Beyonca Shade, Leah Beth Faulkner, Raegan Taylor, Taylor Bowling, Katie Seals, Caroline Conley, Kaitlyn Boroff, Annie Grace Wade, Natalie Seals, Briley Coffey, Julianne Becton, Aubree Keeling, Sloan Bearden, Sailor Bearden, Sam George, Avery Rodgers, Addie Wells, Ashlyn Floyd, Kaigan Davis, Abby Hightower, Meg Kizer, Madison Adams, and Danielle Thomas, under the outstanding direction of cheerleader coaches David Byars and Teka Kennedy; and

WHEREAS, the football program enjoys the unequivocal support of the administration and athletic support staff of Union City High School led by Wesley Kennedy, Director of Schools; Jacob Cross, Principal and Athletic Director; David Byars, Vice Principal; and Tammy Sparks, Athletic Executive Secretary; and

WHEREAS, the football players of Union City High School epitomize all that is good in today's student athlete, as they have achieved the highest level of success on the field while showing the highest degree of character both on and off the field; they inspired their fellow students and united the entire community during their triumphant run through the 2017 season; and

WHEREAS, the dedication, determination, work ethic, and talent of this group of young men not only made possible a championship football season, but also surely bode well for their success in every future endeavor; and

WHEREAS, we find it appropriate to acknowledge and applaud the Golden Tornadoes of Union City High School for serving as exemplars of the high quality of the youth of Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and congratulate the players, coaching staff, team support staff, administrators, cheerleaders, and fans of the Union City High School Golden Tornadoes football team on winning the 2017 TSSAA Division I Class 2A State Football Championship.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.